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A Cross-cultural Understanding of the Characteristics of a Good Teacher

Banu Inan

Kocaeli University, Faculty of Education, ELT Department, Kocaeli, 41380, Turkey

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ABSTRACT The definition of a good teacher varies from person to person depending on the expectations of the people defining it. Everybody defines it bypaying attention to different characteristics like sense of humour, classroom management abilities, good field knowledge, etc. In this paper, Erasmus students coming from both Eastern European (Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, Austria) and Western European countries (Spain, England, France, and Germany) were asked to define the characteristics of a good teacher with the help of a questionnaire. In this paper, the participants' opinions were analyzed in terms of teachers' "background knowledge", "professional skills", and "personal qualities". The findings indicate that there are differences between students' views related to the characteristics of a good teacher depending on which part of Europe they are from.